



St Edmund's CofE Primary School

## Special Educational Needs & Disability Policy

September 2023

Review Date September 2024

St Edmund's Church of England Primary School is a welcoming and nurturing environment, where each individual is supported to develop morally, spiritually, socially, culturally and academically. Our extended community, through our Christian values of Love, Courage, Trust and Respect encourage each other in faith to 'Let your light shine.' (Matthew 5).

### **Mission Statement**

We value every child, ensuring that they develop their individual talents and skills to become happy and successful learners, founded upon our Christian values and Christian vision of 'let you light shine' and practice within our caring school community.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following school policies: Behaviour Policy, Safeguarding Policy, Complaints Policy.

This policy is written in line with the requirements of:

Children and Families Act 2014.

SEN Code of Practice 2015.

SI 2014 1530 Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014.

Part 3 Duties on Schools – Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators.

Schedule 1 regulation 51– Information to be included in the SEN information report.

Schedule 2 regulation 53 – Information to be published by a local authority in its local offer.

Equality Act 2010.

Schools Admissions Code, DfE 1 Feb 2012.

SI 2012 1124 The School Information (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2012.

SI 2013 758 The School Information (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013.

### **Definition of Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)**

A child or young person has SEND if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for him or her. A child of compulsory school age or a young person has a learning difficulty if he or she:

1. (a) has a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age; or

2. (b) has a disability which prevents or hinders him or her from making use of facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools or mainstream post-16 institutions
3. (c) for children aged two or more special educational provision is educational or training provision that is additional to or different from that made generally for other children or young people of the same age by mainstream schools.

SEN Code of Practice (2015, p 15)

### **Definition of disability**

Many children and young people who have SEND may also have a disability under the Equality Act 2010 - that is 'a physical or mental impairment which has a long-term and substantial adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities'. This definition provides a relatively low threshold and includes more children than many realise. 'Long-term' is defined as 'a year or more' and 'substantial' is defined as 'more than minor or trivial.' This definition includes sensory impairments such as those affecting sight or hearing, and long-term health conditions such as asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, and cancer. Children and young people with such conditions do not necessarily have SEND, but there is a significant overlap between disabled children and young people and those with SEND. Where a disabled child or young person requires special educational provision, they will also be covered by the SEND definition.

SEN Code of Practice (2015, p16)

### **The kinds of special educational need for which provision is made at the school**

St Edmund's CofE Primary School, we can make provision for every kind of frequently occurring special educational need without an Education, Health and Care Plan, for instance dyslexia, dyspraxia, speech and language needs, autism, learning difficulties and behaviour difficulties.

There are other kinds of special educational needs that do not occur as frequently and with which the school is less familiar, but we can access training and advice so that these kinds of needs can be met. We do this to let every pupil let their light shine in accordance with our Christian vision.

The school also currently meets the needs of pupils with an Education, Health and Care plan. The final decision on the admission of pupils with a statement of special educational need and/or an Education, Health and Care plan are made by the Local Authority.

The admission arrangements for pupils without an Education, Health and Care Plan do not discriminate against or disadvantage disabled children or those with special educational needs.

## **Information about the policy for identification and assessment of pupils with SEND**

St Edmund's CofE Primary School monitors the progress of all pupils three times a year to review their academic progress. We also use a range of assessments with all the pupils at various points:

- Infant and Junior Language Link – used as a baseline assessment for all Reception (EYFS) pupils. This is also used to assess suspected language difficulties with any aged pupil.
- Infant and Junior Speech Link – used as a baseline assessment for all Reception (EYFS) pupils. This is also used to assess suspected speech difficulties with any aged pupil.
- Phonics screening check – completed with all Year 1 pupils in the summer term – any pupils who fail the check will re-take this in the summer term of Year 2 (a statutory requirement).
- GL Dyslexia Portfolio Screener.
- Single age reading assessment.
- Single age spelling assessment.
- York Assessment for Reading Comprehension.
- Sandwell Numeracy Assessment.

Where progress is not sufficient, even if a special educational need has not been identified, SLT ensure monitoring of consistent implementation of Quality First Teaching (QFT) and Mainstream Core Standards (MCS). Further to this, additional provision can include interventions and strategies to support pupils in reaching their potential.

Examples of extra support are:

- Speech and Language Link interventions.
- Reading Recovery.
- Building Reading Stamina.
- Inference interventions.
- RWI booster.
- Nussy.
- Dyscalculia intervention.
- Clicker 8.
- Sensory Circuits.

Some pupils may continue to make below expected progress, despite high-quality teaching, mainstream core standards and additional interventions and strategies being in place. For these pupils, and in consultation with parents, we will use a range of assessment tools to determine the cause of the learning difficulty. At St Edmund's CofE Primary School, we are experienced in using a range of assessment tools. We are also able to access external advisors via our cluster Local Inclusion Forum Team (LIFT), five times a year across each academic year or through paediatric referrals.

The purpose of any more detailed assessment is to understand what additional resources and different approaches are required to enable the pupil to make expected or accelerated progress. These findings will be shared with parents and used to generate personalised plans, which are then reviewed regularly and amended where necessary. At this point we will have identified that the pupil has a special educational need because the school is making special educational provision for the pupil which is additional and different to what is normally available through quality first teaching and the mainstream core standards.

If the pupil can make good progress using this additional and different resource (but would not be able to maintain this good progress without it) we will continue to identify the pupil as having a special educational need. If the pupil is able to maintain good progress without the additional and different resources, he or she will not be identified with special educational needs. When any change in identification of SEND is changed parents will be notified.

We will ensure that all teachers and support staff who work with the pupil are aware of the support provided and the teaching approaches that are to be used.

**Information about the school's policies for making provision for pupils with special educational needs whether or not they have EHC Plans.**

**How the school evaluates the effectiveness of its provision for such pupils.**

Each review of the personalised plan is a collaborative process and will be informed by the views of; the pupil, parents, class teachers, support staff and SENDCo.

Assessment outcomes, consistent monitoring and observations from teachers, support staff and SLT, will contribute to assessing whether expected progress is being made.

The SEN Code of Practice (2015, 6.17) describes inadequate progress thus:

- Is significantly slower than that of their peers starting from the same baseline.
- Fails to match or better the child's previous rate of progress.
- Fails to close the attainment gap between rate of progress.
- Widens the attainment gap.

For pupils with or without an Education, Health and Care Plan, there will be regular reviews of the provision made for the child, which will enable an evaluation of the effectiveness of the special provision. The collation of all annual review evaluations of effectiveness will be reported to the governing body.

**The school's arrangements for assessing and reviewing the progress of pupils with special educational needs**

Every pupil in the school has their progress tracked three times per year through pupil progress meetings. Pupils with special educational needs will have more frequent or ongoing assessments. The assessments we use at St Edmund's CofE Primary School are

identified in the section on identification and assessment of pupils with SEND. They aim to identify if pupils are increasing their level of skills in key areas.

If these assessments do not show expected progress is being made the SEND support plan and personalised plan will be reviewed and adjusted.

### **The school's approach to teaching pupils with special educational needs**

Quality First Teaching, including differentiation and reasonable adjustment, is the first step within a graduation approach, in responding to pupils who have or may have SEND. Additional intervention and support cannot compensate for a lack of good quality teaching. Schools should regularly and carefully review the quality of teaching for all pupils, including those at risk of underachievement. This includes reviewing and, where necessary, improving, teachers' understanding of strategies to identify and support vulnerable pupils and their knowledge of the SEN most frequently encountered SEN Code of Practice (2015, 6.37, p99)

At St Edmund's CofE Primary School, the quality of teaching is judged to be GOOD (as stated in our last Ofsted inspection).

We follow the Mainstream Core Standards advice developed by Kent County Council to ensure that our teaching conforms to best practice. The Mainstream Core Standards can be found online at:

[http://www.kelsi.org.uk/pupil\\_support\\_and\\_wellbeing/targeted\\_support/inclusion/inclusion\\_and\\_achievement/publications\\_and\\_documents.aspx](http://www.kelsi.org.uk/pupil_support_and_wellbeing/targeted_support/inclusion/inclusion_and_achievement/publications_and_documents.aspx)

In meeting the Mainstream Core Standards, the school employs some additional teaching approaches, as advised by internal and external assessments. These are delivered by additional staff employed through the funding provided to the school as 'notional SEN funding' and Higher Needs Funding applied for by the SENDCo.

### **How the school adapts the curriculum and learning environment for pupils with special educational needs**

At St Edmund's CofE Primary School we follow the advice in the Mainstream Core Standards on how to adapt the curriculum and the learning environment for pupils with special educational needs in order to support them in letting their lights shine. We also incorporate the advice provided as a result of assessments, both internal and external, and the strategies described in statements of special educational needs and Education, Health and Care Plans.

### **Additional support for learning that is available to pupils with special educational needs**

As part of our budget we receive 'notional SEN funding'. This funding is used to ensure that the quality of teaching is good in the school and that there are sufficient resources to deploy additional and different teaching for pupils requiring SEND support. The amount of support required for each pupil to make good progress will be different in each case – additional

support is identified as part of our Quality First Teaching Strategies and/or additional intervention as outlined in each Personalised Plan and whole school provision map. In some cases a very high level of resource is required and the SENDCo will apply for High Needs Funding (HNF). This HNF is allocated on an annual basis and the amount may alter annually according to the changing level of individualised intervention required to necessitate progress. HNF feeds into SEND support across the school, whilst ensuring individual pupils are prioritised.

### **How the school enables pupils with special educational needs to engage in activities of the school (including physical activities) together with children who do not have special educational needs**

All clubs, trips and activities offered to pupils at St Edmund's CofE Primary School are available to pupils with special educational needs either with or without an Education, Health and Care Plan. Where it is necessary, the school will use the resources available to it to provide additional adult support to enable the safe participation of the pupil in the activities. The school may also enable parents to accompany their children if this is in their best interests.

### **Support that is available for improving the emotional and social development of pupils with special educational needs**

At St Edmund's CofE Primary School, we understand that an important feature of the school is to enable all pupils to flourish. Part of this is to ensure pupils develop emotional resilience and social skills, both through direct teaching for instance: PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education, RE (Religious Education), Social Skills groups, team work across the curriculum and indirectly with every conversation adults have with pupils throughout the day.

For some pupils with high levels of need in this area, we also ensure the following is available: social skills groups, nurture groups, sensory circuits, play therapy, dog mentor time, external referral to CYPMHS, Early Help, Domestic Abuse and safe time-out spaces for pupils to use.

Pupils in the early stages of emotional and social development because of their special educational needs will be supported to enable them to develop and mature appropriately. This will usually require additional and adjusted resources, beyond that required by pupils who do not need this support.

### **The name and contact details of the SEND Co-ordinator (SENDCo)**

St Edmund's CE Primary School has two SENDCo's who operate across the school.

Mrs Christine Daniel, who is a qualified teacher and is training for her National Award for SEND co-ordination, is the SENDCo for EYFS and Key Stage 1.

Mrs Daniel is available on 01474 853484 or [cdaniel@st-edmunds.kent.sch.uk](mailto:cdaniel@st-edmunds.kent.sch.uk)

Miss Molly Elvidge, who is a qualified teacher and is training for her National Award for SEND co-ordination, is the SENDCo for KS2.

Miss Elvidge is available on 01474 853484 or [melvidge@st-edmunds.kent.sch.uk](mailto:melvidge@st-edmunds.kent.sch.uk)

### **Information about the expertise and training of staff in relation to children and young people with special educational needs and how specialist expertise will be secured**

All teachers and teaching assistants have had the following awareness training: Safeguarding, Prevent, E-safety, autism training, dyslexia training, dysregulation and positive handling training.

Where a training need is identified beyond this we will find a provider who is able to deliver it. Training providers we can approach are: special schools, educational psychologists, speech and language therapists, occupational therapists and physiotherapists.

### **Information about how equipment and facilities to support children and young people with special educational needs will be secured**

Where external advisors recommend the use of equipment or facilities which the school does not have, if appropriate, we will seek to purchase it using the notional SEN/HNF funding, or seek it by loan. For highly specialist communication equipment the school will seek the advice of the KCC Communication and Assistive Technology team.

### **The arrangements for consulting parents of children with special educational needs about, and involving them in, their education**

All parents of pupils at St Edmund's CofE Primary School are invited to discuss the progress of their children on three occasions a year and receive a written report once per year. In addition, we are happy to arrange meetings outside these times. As part of our normal teaching arrangements, all pupils will access some additional teaching to help them catch-up if the progress monitoring indicates that this is necessary; this will not imply that the pupil has a special educational need. All such provision will be recorded, tracked and evaluated by staff as part of Quality First Teaching and the Mainstream Core Standards.

If, following this normal provision, improvements in progress are not seen, we will contact parents to discuss the use of internal or external assessments which will help us to address these needs better. From this point onwards the pupil will be identified as having special educational needs because special educational provision is being made and the parent will be invited to all planning and reviews of this provision. Parents will be actively supported to contribute to assessment, planning and review.

In addition to this, parents of pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan will be invited to contribute to and attend an annual review, which, wherever possible will also include other agencies involved with the pupil. Information will be made accessible for parents.

### **The arrangements for consulting young people with special educational needs about, and involving them in their education**

When a pupil has been identified to have special educational needs because special educational provision is being made for him or her, the pupil will (where appropriate) be consulted about and involved in the arrangements made for them as part of pupil-centred planning. Parents are likely to play a more significant role in the childhood years with the

young person taking more responsibility and acting with greater independence in later years.

### **The arrangements made by the governing body relating to the treatment of complaints from parents of pupils with special educational needs concerning the provision made at the school**

The normal arrangements for the treatment of complaints at St Edmund's CofE Primary are used for complaints about provision made for special educational needs. We encourage parents to discuss their concerns with the class teacher, SENDCo, Head of School or Executive Headteacher to resolve the issue before making the complaint formal to the Chair of the governing body.

If the complaint is not resolved after it has been considered by the governing body, then a disagreement resolution service or mediation service can be contracted. If it remains unresolved after this, the complainant can appeal to the First-tier Tribunal (Special Educational Needs and Disability), if the case refers to disability discrimination, or to the Secretary of State for all other cases.

There are some circumstances, usually for children who have an Education, Health and Care Plan where there is a statutory right for parents to appeal against a decision of the Local Authority. Complaints which fall within this category cannot be investigated by the school.

### **How the governing body involves other bodies, including health and social services bodies, local authority support services and voluntary organisations, in meeting the needs of pupils with special educational needs and in supporting the families of such pupils**

The governing body have engaged with the following bodies:-

- Free membership of LIFT for access to specialist teaching and learning service.
- Ability to make ad hoc requests for Educational Psychology service and advice from Communication and Assistive Technology Team.

### **The contact details of support services for the parents of pupils with special educational needs, including those for arrangements made in accordance with clause 32 (Parent Partnership Services)**

Kent Parent Partnership Service (KPPS) provides free, impartial, confidential, advice, support and options around educational issues for parents who have children with special educational needs or disabilities (0-19). They empower parents to play an active and informed role in their child's education. They can be contacted on

HELPLINE: 03000 41 3000

Office: 0300 333 6474 and

Minicom: 0300 333 6484



E-mail: [kentparentpartnershipservice@kent.gov.uk](mailto:kentparentpartnershipservice@kent.gov.uk)

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/kpps>

### **The school's arrangements for supporting pupils with special educational needs in transferring between phases of education or in preparing for adulthood and independent living**

At St Edmund's CofE Primary School we work closely with the educational settings used by the pupils before they transfer to us in order to seek the information that will make the transfer as seamless as possible. Our Early Years practitioners work collaboratively with nurseries and other pre-school settings as well as using parent consultations and 'play and stay' visits and home visits to gather information from families to support the child's transition to school. We work closely with secondary schools and the Specialist Teaching and Learning Service (STLS) on transition from year 6 to all secondary placements. We also contribute information to a pupils' onward destination by providing information to the next setting.

### **Information on where the local authority's local offer is published**

The local authority's local offer is published on:

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/special-educational-needs>

Parents and carers without internet access should make an appointment with the SENDCo.

**To be approved by the GB: TBC**

**Next review: September 2024**